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as straggle through some of these poems in the trailing garments of four or five syllables? They must strike a well-aimed blow if they would make themselves welcome. Why let half a dozen quietly disposed monosyllables tumble at last, in the sheer desperation of uncertainty, into one burly word at the end, as thus :

“ The heaped green grasses rise up in their congregation ? ”

The ear refuses to place such a line as this anywhere upon the metrical gamut.

We regret to see these defects in a volume which, after all, makes a decided impression on the reader's mind. They might have been avoided without weakening the general nervous force. Some of the gems which lie among the pages are worthy a daintier setting. The true artist does not disdain the last touches which make his picture beautiful, and the hand of genius may show itself in the most delicate strokes of the pencil.

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11.—*Calderon: his Life and Genius. With Specimens of his Plays.*

By RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH, B. D. New York: Redfield. 1856.

IN this small and unpretending, but most engaging book, Mr. Trench succeeds not only in making his subject interesting, but also in winning his reader to his own judgment, even when that differs from certain standard authorities. In the memoir and essay which occupy half of the volume, the claims of Calderon to the rank which his own countrymen have assigned him, but which some foreign critics deny him, are set forth in temperate but positive terms; in the translations which follow, this position is sustained by Calderon himself. These translations are so full of interest and beauty, that we regret that so skilful a translator and so discriminating an admirer as Mr. Trench proves himself, should not have indulged us with more specimens. This book stands, in some sense, as a vindication of Calderon before the English public, whose opinions heretofore of the Spanish dramatist have been formed upon the insufficient ground of inferior or badly chosen versions. While endeavoring to place his author in a more worthy light, Mr. Trench avoids both the sweeping condemnation of Sismondi and the extravagant and undiscriminating laudation of the Schlegels and other German critics. He seems rather to sympathize with the tone of Goethe's judgment, though he goes beyond Goethe both in the knowledge and the praise of Calderon's dramas. He thinks that Goethe was familiar only with those which had been translated into German. Mr.

Ticknor, in his "History of Spanish Literature," speaks with some admiration of Calderon as an idealist and a versifier, yet does not place him so high either as poet or dramatist as Mr. Trench would pronounce him. But there must of necessity be ample room for difference of opinion concerning a dramatist who wrote some two hundred plays, in which, of course, the degree of merit and beauty must vary very greatly.

A large part of the injustice done to Calderon by popular English translations is, as Mr. Trench observes, owing to the almost insuperable obstacles presented by Spanish metres, and to the absence, in our own language, of any equivalent for the *assonants* so prevalent and so musical in the original. Much of the spirit and beauty must necessarily evaporate under the degree of handling requisite when both language and metre are to be translated; and passages of exceeding melody in the flowing vowelings of Spanish utterance, are stiff and harsh in the baldness of blank verse. Mr. Trench overcomes this difficulty in the fragments he gives, to a remarkable degree, and thus strikes a fair and honest blow for the fame of his author. Through the whole of his book he proves himself a right worthy and generous champion, wise in the choice of his weapons, and skilful and courageous in the use of them.

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12.—*An Analytical Concordance to the Holy Scriptures; or, The Bible presented under Distinct and Classified Heads or Topics.* Edited by JOHN EADIE, D. D., LL. D., Professor of Biblical Literature to the United Presbyterian Church. Boston: Gould and Lincoln. 1857. 8vo. pp. lxiv, 776.

WITH many of our clerical readers, Dr. Eadie's reputation as an accomplished Biblical scholar is all that will be needed to commend this work. We can best describe it in his own words. "It is an attempt so to classify Scripture under separate heads as to exhaust its contents. The reader will find under the respective Articles or Sections what the Bible says on the separate subjects in relation to Doctrine, Ethics, and Antiquities." This plan is so thoroughly carried out, as to give us substantially the whole of the Bible, arranged under forty-two general titles, with subdivisions that comprehend and "exhaust" all the "contents" of each title. Of the method of subdivision we may find a fair specimen under the (alphabetically) first title, — Agriculture. It includes under separate heads the Distribution of